

ODHH Monthly Bulletin

April 2012

A Message from Director Lisa Kornberg

The clocks aren't the only things that have moved forward. We at ODHH continue to move forward as well, working to improve the quality of life for Maryland's deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind citizens.

Legislative session is soon coming to an end. It is important that we all continue to take action so that Maryland remains at the forefront of ensuring equal access for all of its diverse citizens.

Finally, even with all of the positive progress we see in Maryland, we must always take a moment to look back and acknowledge the important moments in history. That's why Deaf History Month is so important - it reminds us of how far we have come and of the work still to be done. One of the mottos of the O'Malley-Brown Administration is moving Maryland forward. This principle guides the efforts of ODHH and we are proud to work with our State and community partners to promote continuous progress in the State.

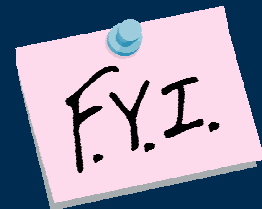
Happy Spring!
-Lisa

In This Issue

Celebrating Deaf History Month

Spotlight On: Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD) Issues its Inaugural eNewsletter

Celebrating Deaf History Month



Tax Day is Approaching!

April 15, 2012

IRS Tax Tips Series: In ASL with Captions and Voice Over

The Internal Revenue Service has produced a video series of Tax Tips that give concise information about a variety of topics. All videos are under three minutes in length and are fully accessible through American Sign Language, Captions, and Voice Over.

To view them, visit the IRS's YouTube channel at: <http://www.youtube.com/irsvideoasl>

Examples of videos posted are:

- Do I Have to File a Tax Return?
- Tax Season Delayed for Some Tax Payers
- W-2 Missing?
- IRS e-File 2011
- Free IRS Tax Help

Save the Date:

**Deaf Art, History,
Culture, and Identity:
Late 19th Century to Present**



Presenter:

Tracey Salaway, Professor of Art,
Gallaudet University
In observance of Deaf History Month
(March 13 – April 15)

Professor Salaway will discuss Deaf art, history,

Governor Martin O'Malley has proclaimed the period from March 13 to April 15, 2012 as Deaf History Month. The proclamation calls upon all Marylanders to observe the month and recognize deaf heritage and the abilities and potential of our fellow citizens who are deaf.



Deaf History Month celebrates cultures, heritages, and languages unique to deaf people of the world by showing the history, diversity, accomplishments, and potential of the deaf community. As a part of Deaf History Month, Marylanders are encouraged to increase their understanding and support for individuals who are deaf and the unique history of the deaf

community.

Important historical events recognized during this period include: 1) March 13, 1988: I. King Jordan becomes the first deaf president of Gallaudet University; 2) April 8, 1864: President Lincoln signed the charter establishing a college for the deaf, Gallaudet University; and 3) April 15, 1817: the first school for the deaf, the American School for the Deaf, opens in Hartford, Connecticut

A Celebration of Deaf Education and Sign Language was held on Saturday, March 31st, 2012 at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in the Wheeler Auditorium. This year's celebration included a tribute to the 300th birth anniversary of Abbé Charles Michel de l'Épée, who founded the first public school for the deaf in the world. The event was coordinated by the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Maryland Division of Library Development and Services in partnership with the Maryland Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Maryland School for the Deaf, Maryland Association of the Deaf, and the National Association of the Deaf.

Deaf History Month appears to have had its genesis March 13, 1997, when the D.C. Public Library had a Deaf History Month event with deaf authors and guest speakers. The popularity of Deaf History Month grew over time, and there is currently an effort under way by the American Library Association and the National Association of the Deaf to get the White House to declare it an official national event.

Spotlight On: Maryland Association of the Deaf (MDAD) Issues their Inaugural eNewsletter

culture, and identity from colonial to contemporary times in America. She will share examples of Deaf Art, which depicts how the identity of the deaf community has evolved through this time period.

Saturday, April 14, 2012

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Davis Library

6400 Democracy Blvd

Bethesda, MD 20814

240-777-0922 (voice); 301-897-2203 (TTY)

Register at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library

Click on Events Calendar

This program will be presented in American Sign Language. The library's meeting room is equipped with an audio induction loop system for people who use hearing aids with a telecoil switch.

Save the Date

ASL STORYTELLING WITH SPECIAL GUEST RICKY ROSE

ABOUT THE STORYTELLER: A native of Providence, Rhode Island, Ricky Rose is an alumni of the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, CT and was raised by Deaf parents and has four Deaf siblings. Ricky earned his BSW degree from Utah State University and obtained his Masters degree in Deaf Studies from Gallaudet University. Ricky is currently an ASL Lecturer and ASL Lab coordinator at McDaniel College. He is married, has three children (two CODASs and one Deaf daughter) and has a Deaf granddaughter.



**Thursday, April 12
6:30PM - 8:30PM
HASA AUDITORIUM**

REGISTER

This event is an ASL immersion activity (no oral interpreting available)

\$5 Includes Performance & Refreshments

MDAD has unveiled its Inaugural eNewsletter with news about the MDAD conference, Legislative Awareness Day, words from the president and Miss Deaf Maryland, a summary of the EHDI conference as well introducing your new MDAD Board and MDAD Media Team!

At the MDAD conference in November 2011, a motion was passed and as you are reading this, the motion is in effect. Motion #1 stated: "Helena Schmitt (Ray Conrad) moved that MDAD starts e-news, e-newsletter twice a year. Thelma Schroeder (Richard Cohen) moved to amend to this by using vlog also."

This motion was voted and passed, so to carry the motion, MDAD President, Charm L. Smith, was quick to establish an MDAD Media Committee that is responsible for the new MDAD eNewsletter! The eNewsletter will start on a quarterly basis. This will be the written eNewsletter distributed via e-mail and accessible on the website, www.mdad.tv. A core team of 5 members currently is running the eNewsletter.

Read more at:

<http://mdad.tv/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/MDADNLSP2012.pdf>

Questions? Comments? Contact:

Julie Anne Schafer, Esq.
Assistant Director
Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
217 E. Redwood Street, Suite 1300
Baltimore, MD 21202
410-767-7793 (voice)
443-453-5954 (VP)
jschafer@gov.state.md.us
<http://www.odhh.maryland.gov/>